



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-02-89

NATURAL GAS SAFETY

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS

Jefferson City (November 20, 2001)--Colder temperatures in Missouri have people turning on natural gas furnaces for heating. The Missouri Public Service Commission reminds customers what they should do if they smell natural gas. Knowing what to do if you smell natural gas can help avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

Customers and businesses are also reminded to call their local natural gas company before they dig in their own yard or excavate for a commercial project.

Natural Gas Safety

When it's taken from the ground, natural gas is odorless. To make it easier to detect, a harmless but strong-smelling odorant is added. If you ever smell this "rotten egg-like" odor, it may mean there is a gas leak.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS:

OUTSIDE:

>Call your local natural gas company to report the odor and its approximate location.

INSIDE:

>Do not operate electrical switches. Do not smoke. Do not use lighters, matches or any other open flame.

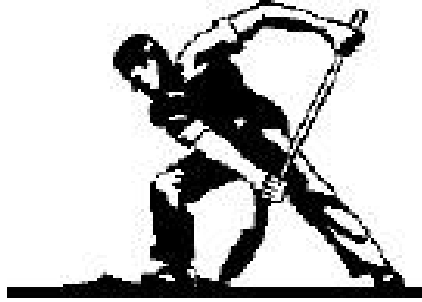
>Evacuate the building immediately.

>Go to a neighbor's house and call your local natural gas company to report the odor. Calling from a phone inside your home could create a spark that could cause an explosion.

>Do not start your vehicle if it is in an attached garage.

Remember: Your local natural gas distributor is on-call 24-hours a day to respond to natural gas emergencies. If your service is disrupted for any reason, please make sure that a trained professional relights your pilot flames.

(more)



DIG SAFE. DIG SMART. KNOW MISSOURI'S GROUND RULES

MAKE THE CALL

Many utility company facilities, including natural gas pipelines, are located underground and out of site. If you plan to dig in your own yard or excavate for a commercial project, Missouri law requires that you notify Missouri One Call System at **1-800-DIG-RITE (344-7483)**. However, not all utilities are members of Missouri One Call, so you will also need to contact those non-members directly before you dig.

WAIT THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF TIME

Missouri law requires that any person making or beginning any excavation notify all underground facility owners that may be affected by the excavation, at least 2 but not more than 10 working days in advance, except in case of an emergency. After you make the call, facility owners will determine if the planned dig is near any underground facilities. If needed, they will survey and mark the area where utility lines are located. **Do not begin digging until all of the utilities in the area have been located and marked.**

RESPECT THE MARKS

After it is determined that markings are required, the facility owner will dispatch a field locator who will locate and mark the excavation site with paint, stakes, or flags. Utilities mark their facilities according to specific guidelines and color codes. **Respect the markings when you dig.**

DIG SAFELY

Digging carelessly can cause disruption of vital utility services and environmental damage, or even loss of life. **Become a partner in damage prevention and DIG SAFELY.**

